

changing districts each time so as all may become better acquainted with each other. These visits are for mutual helpfulness, special stress being placed on the spiritual interests of the church. Mr. Harry C. Bond has recently been elected superintendent of the main Sunday-school, and Mr. C. S. Kessler is the superintendent of the mission school.

Austin College: The commencement sermon to the graduating class will be preached by Rev. A. G. Jones, D. D., of San Antonio, Texas, in Sherman Hall, Sunday, June 4th. On Tuesday, June 6th, the graduating exercises will be held. Judge Gordon Boone, of Corpus Christi, a member of the class of 1894, will deliver the baccalaureate address.

Itasca: The session received two members by letter and one on confession of faith on May 7th.

Rev. A. D. Rice was with us Sunday, April 30th, and gave us two very interesting and instructive addresses on work in China. In the afternoon we took him six miles in the country to the Files Valley Orphans' Home, where he spoke to the children on Child Life in China. He left us Monday morning.

The Sunday-school and prayer meeting are doing finely. We have two hundred and eighty-three members in Sunday-school, including Cradle Roll and Home Department, and the actual attendance has reached two hundred and eighteen in Sunday-school and forty-four in prayer meeting.

This is not on special occasions, but just the regular work.

S. Addison McElroy, Pastor.

Sterling City: Rev. B. E. Wallace, D. D., superintendent of Home Missions in Brownwood Presbytery, preached at Sterling City on April 30th. At the request of the members of both churches, the Lacy and the Sterling City churches were consolidated as the Sterling Presbyterian church, with A. V. Patterson and J. L. Glass as ruling elders. There were twelve members in the Sterling City church, and five in the Lacy church, and five were received on certificate, making a total of twenty-two. Others are expected to be received soon. Steps were taken to organize a Women's Society.

Malcom Black.

San Antonio: Westminster church welcomes its new pastor, Rev. Thos. W. Griffiths, on the first Sabbath in May. This church has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. Brooks I. Dickey to take up the work of superintendent of Home Missions, last November. It has been very acceptably supplied during the greater part of that time by Rev. J. M. Purcell, of Lockhart.

Pleasanton: Rev. S. Browne Hoyt, recently ordained by the Presbytery of Western Texas, will make his home at this place, supplying the church here, and that at Oakville and opening work at Georgewest.

Taylor: The Mexican Presbyterian church of Taylor has rounded out its second year to the satisfaction of all concerned. It has been a year of internal development rather than of outward growth, though the increase in members speaks well for the activity of the membership, and for the future prosperity of this field. Compared to the border counties, this central section of the state is sparsely settled with Mexicans, and they are widely scattered. We received twenty-three members of examination, eighteen of whom received baptism, and eleven by letter or restatement,—thirty-four in all. The church has now a total membership of 132, only forty-nine of whom are "resident." Besides the good Sunday-school we have at Taylor, there are six branch

schools, and the cradle roll has thirty-three names on the list. The total enrollment 147. A great many of the children are memorizing the catechisms, and both old and young are memorizing the Scriptures. We require the grown people who attend the Sunday-schools to read the Bible during the week. Last year, just the members of the Taylor Sunday-school, read 1,734 chapters, and that was not a complete report. We have three young men who desire to study for the ministry, if we had the means and the way to prepare them. This field has a future. W. S. S.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Elkins: The commencement of Davis and Elkins College will be held June 11 to 14, inclusive. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached by the Rev. J. Gray McAllister, D. D., of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Louisville, Ky.; the commencement address will be delivered by Hon. H. C. Jones, dean of the law school, West Virginia University. There will be four graduates from the collegiate department. The annual meeting of the trustees will be held Tuesday morning, June 13th.

Jas. E. Allen, President.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Rev. G. H. Turpin, from Delrose, Tenn., to Bartow, Fla.

R. H. Viser, from Clarendon to Agent, Ark.

Rev. T. W. Atwood, from Montgomery, Ala., to Dallas, Tex.

PERSONAL.

Rev. W. F. Bull, of the Korean Mission, will sail for this country with his family on June 1st. His address will be 123 West Freemason Street, Norfolk, Va.

COMMENCEMENT OF UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN VIRGINIA.

On May 10th Union Seminary completed her one hundredth and fourth year of service to the Church by sending out, with their diplomas, thirty-one young men prepared for the full ministry of the gospel. The session which has just closed has, from every point of view, been one of the very best in the history of the Seminary.

Commencement Speakers.

The Seminary was most happy in her commencement speakers this year. The Rev. Rockwell S. Frank, D. D., pastor of the Independent Presbyterian church, Savannah, Ga., preached the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning, May 7th. His text was Philippians 3:14 and his subject was "Christian Leadership." He spoke of the duty of leadership, the cost of leadership and the qualifications for leadership.

Rev. D. H. Rolston, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Charlotte, N. C., delivered the annual address before the Society of Missionary Inquiry on Sunday night. This society was organized in 1818 and has had a continuous and growing life ever since. It studies missions, prays for missions, gives to missions and does a great deal of active missionary work.

Dr. Rolston took Matthew 16:3 for his text and spoke on "The Signs of the Times in the Missionary World."

The address was most hopeful and helpful. Dr. Rolston believes that the kingdom is growing and expanding and that one of these days it is coming.

Rev. R. F. Campbell, D. D., of Asheville, N. C., delivered the address to the graduating class on Wednesday morning. His subject was, "Whose Man Am I?" He answered this question under three heads—the minister is

nobody's man, everybody's man, God's man.

Degrees and Diplomas.

Union Seminary confers the degree of B. D. (Bachelor of Divinity) upon those students who have an A. B. degree from a recognized college and who make an average grade of at least 85 on the full course of studies for every term during the entire three years of the Seminary course. Twenty-three members of the senior class received the degree of B. D. Along with their names we give the places where they have located:

Eugene Alexander, Raeford, N. C.; Frank Pearson Anderson, Greenville, S. C.; Henry Graybill Bedinger, Asheville, N. C.; Francis John Brooke, Jr., Gorman, Va.; Herbert Venable Carson, Nashville, Tenn.; Charles Edwin Clarke, Kenly, N. C.; George West Diehl, Richmond, Va.; Hugh Fitzpatrick, Richmond, Va.; William Sydney Golden, Sanford, N. C.; John Leyburn Hughes, Anchorage, Alaska; William Proctor McElroy, Dawson, Ga.; Julius Preston Proffitt, Greenfield, Va.; Hugh Robertson (Hoge Fellow), Richmond, Va.; Frank McCutcheon Ryburn, Phoenix, Va.; Eugene Crampton Scott, Aberdeen, Miss.; Edgar William Smith, Iron Gate, Va.; Christopher Kreutzer Taffe (Hoge Fellow), Richmond, Va.; Thomas Greenlee Tate, Triangle, N. C.; Hugh Kerr Taylor, Maysville, Ky.; Joseph Gabriel Walker, Greensboro, N. C.; Joseph Powell Watkins, Henderson, N. C.; John William Young, Jr., Itta Bena, Miss.

A diploma without a degree is given to those who have completed the full course in a satisfactory manner but for some reason are not eligible for the degree of B. D. The following members of the class received diplomas: John Alexander Bowman, Bealeton, Va.; Lloyd Cook Campbell, Blaine, W. Va.; William Warren Sprouse, Irwin, Va.; Ernest McDowell Delaney, Lynchburg, Va., and Robert Tate Wallace, Crozet, Va.

Certificates of proficiency are given to those who have completed parts of the regular course in a satisfactory manner. The following received certificates of proficiency: Edwin Wright Mitchell, Wapanucka, Okla.; Clarence Olyver Pardo, Slab Fork, W. Va., and Samuel Brown Morrison Ghiselin, Letcher county, Ky.

The Hoge Fellow Post Graduate Diploma was awarded to Martin Ryerson Turnbull, A. B., B. D., who has completed a year of residence post graduate work.

A Course of Study Leading Up to the Degree of D. D.

The most interesting announcement at commencement was that the faculty and Board of Trustees had outlined and authorized a severe course of study leading up to the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Up to this time this has been an honorary degree bestowed entirely by the colleges. This new course makes it possible for a man by hard work to earn his degree. The course extends over a period of at least three years. The last three months to be taken at the Seminary. To be eligible for this course a man must be a full graduate of the Seminary, or must have shown unusual gifts out in his ministry. No man may receive the degree under five years from the time he received his B. D. Those who have no B. D. may not receive the D. D. under eight years from the time of their ordination. Although the action is not yet twenty-four hours old two of our most gifted young ministers have registered as students in this course. The object of this course is to encourage the graduates of our seminaries to continue their theological studies in a systematic way after they leave the seminaries.

DEVIL WORSHIP IN LAND OF THE ABSENTEE GOD.

How would you like to live in a country where everybody worships the devil—where God is thought to be "a long way off," but deadly evil spirits everywhere? John A. Stockwell, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, who recently went to Central Africa as a missionary, found himself in the midst of just such a country. Of the religion of the African he writes:

"The native African believes in the personality of God the Creator, and thinks of Him as a beneficent being. He is also sure of the existence of the devil and of a multitude of lesser demons. But here all similarity ceases between our belief and his. For while he thinks that God is perhaps kindly disposed toward him, he believes that after He created the world and set it going, he went 'a long way off' and is not in the least concerned about mundane affairs, but that evil spirits are busy everywhere.

"Hence, he thinks it necessary to offer sacrifices and in every way try to keep the demons appeased. So we find in many back yards and in the streets little huts, miniature counterparts of their own houses, in which the people put offerings to the devil whenever they desire his special care. It is difficult to conceive of a more degrading system of religion than this; it does not take a great amount of acumen to perceive that to worship the author of evil must of necessity lead to everything that is bad.

"We have not yet found any traces of idolatry, the nearest approach being the use made of the charms of the medicine men. Medicine, however, the African name for charms, is to be seen in abundance, and consists of every imaginable thing. Bits of wood, an iron ring, the tip of a goat's horn, feathers, skins of animals, sap from trees, or even earth may be used as such.

"Of course the rites that call for human sacrifice have been done away with since the land has come under the control of white men, but enough remains to fill our hearts with sadness and cause us to pray the more earnestly that the Church in the homeland may wake up to the tragic need of this, the darkest of all lands, that has waited so long for the followers of Christ to obey his last and greatest command. How much longer must they wait, and why?"

That God in due time will vindicate His righteousness is part of the revelation of God in Christ. Nothing is more prominent in the gospel than the certainty that the other world will unveil the everlasting distinctions of good and evil that are half lost in the twilight of this sinful existence.—R. W. Micou, D. D.

It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses don't ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining! They just shine!—Moody.

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